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In re Application of  
Robert Ward Carter, et.al.  
SERIAL NO: 09/350,948  
FILED: July 9, 1999  
FOR: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR  
TRENCHLESS REPLACEMENT OF  
UNDERGROUND PIPE

: DECISION ON PETITION  
: TO MAKE APPLICATION  
: SPECIAL (AGE)


This is a decision on your petition submitted on July 9, 1999, to make the above-referenced application special on the basis that applicant is over 65 years of age.

The petition has been found to comply with all requirements of section 708.02, part IV of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, and will be GRANTED for that reason.

The Examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications, (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn, and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference or appeal, if any, only if Petitioner makes a prompt bona fide effort, in response to each office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the Examiner to accomplish this purpose.

The application is being forwarded to the examiner for accelerated examination consistent with the provisions of section 708.02 of the MPEP.

  
Steven N. Meyers  
Special Programs Examiner  
Technology Center 3600

RjB3/22/01